

AB 2435 (Lowenthal) - Elder and dependent adult abuse.

Introduced February 19, 2010, Chaptered September 29, 2010

This bill encourages the Board of Psychology to include training in elder and dependent adult abuse assessment and reporting. Specifically, this bill on or after January 1, 2012:

- 1) Expands the required coursework to additionally cover elder and dependent adult abuse assessment and reporting.
- 2) Requires the coursework to include instruction on the assessment and reporting of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect and associated treatment.

Existing Laws

Child Abuse Assessment Training

§ 28. The Legislature finds that there is a need to ensure that professionals of the healing arts who have demonstrable contact with child abuse victims, potential child abuse victims, and child abusers and potential child abusers are provided with adequate and appropriate training regarding the assessment and reporting of child abuse which will ameliorate, reduce, and eliminate the trauma of child abuse and neglect and ensure the reporting of child abuse in a timely manner to prevent additional occurrences.

The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall establish required training in the area of child abuse assessment and reporting for all persons applying for initial licensure and renewal of a license as a psychologist, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist on or after January 1, 1987. This training shall be required one time only for all persons applying for initial licensure or for licensure renewal on or after January 1, 1987.

All persons applying for initial licensure and renewal of a license as a psychologist, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist on or after January 1, 1987, shall, in addition to all other requirements for licensure or renewal, have completed coursework or training in child abuse assessment and reporting which meets the requirements of this section, including detailed knowledge of Section 11165 of the Penal Code. The training shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (a) Be completed after January 1, 1983.
- (b) Be obtained from one of the following sources:
 - (1) An accredited or approved educational institution, as defined in Sections 2902, 4980.40, and 4996.18, including extension courses offered by those institutions.
 - (2) A continuing education provider approved by the responsible board.

(3) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association or a local, county, or state department of health or mental health for continuing education and approved by the responsible board.

(c) Have a minimum of 7 contact hours.

(d) Include the study of the assessment and method of reporting of sexual assault, neglect, severe neglect, general neglect, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, corporal punishment or injury, and abuse in out-of-home care. The training shall also include physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities of reporting, consequences of failure to report, caring for a child's needs after a report is made, sensitivity to previously abused children and adults, and implications and methods of treatment for children and adults.

(e) An applicant shall provide the appropriate board with documentation of completion of the required child abuse training.

The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall exempt an applicant who applies for an exemption from the requirements of this section and who shows to the satisfaction of the board that there would be no need for the training in his or her practice because of the nature of that practice.

It is the intent of the Legislature that a person licensed as a psychologist, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist have minimal but appropriate training in the areas of child abuse assessment and reporting. It is not intended that by solely complying with the requirements of this section, a practitioner is fully trained in the subject of treatment of child abuse victims and abusers.

(f) This section shall become operative on January 1, 1997.

Coursework in Aging and Long-Term Care Required for Licensure of New Applicants

§ 2915.5. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care, which could include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging.

(b) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the requirements of this section.

(c) In order to satisfy the coursework requirement of this section, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation, or within the coursework, that was completed by the applicant.

(d) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the applicant has met the requirements of this section.

Existing Regulation

§ 1382.5. Spousal or Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection, and Intervention Strategies Training Requirements.

All persons applying for a license as a psychologist who began their graduate training on or after January 1, 1995 shall, in addition to all other requirements for licensure, have completed coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention, strategies and shall submit documentation thereof to the board. The coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies shall consist of not less than a combined total of two (2) hours focused on this topic. All persons applying for a license as a psychologist who began their graduate training on or after January 1, 2004 shall also meet the above requirement, however, such course shall consist of at least fifteen (15) contact hours.

The coursework shall be:

- (a) taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements in the applicant's graduate and/or doctoral training, or
- (b) taken in a separate course approved by the board's recognized continuing education accrediting agency, or
- (c) taken in a separate course provided by a sponsor approved by the American Psychological Association.
- (d) completed after January 1, 1995.